We claim:

1. A method for cleansing a used reaction cuvette such that whenever an assay in a first group of assays is scheduled to be next performed in the cuvette, the cuvette is automatically subjected to a first series of cleansing operations and whenever an assay in a second group of assays is scheduled to be next performed in the cuvette, the cuvette is automatically subjected to a second series of cleansing operations.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the first group of assays comprises assays previously determined to potentially have inaccurate assay results if reaction residues in a cleansed used cuvette are greater than a known value and wherein the second group of assays comprises assays previously determined to not potentially have inaccurate assay results if reaction residues in a cleansed used cuvette are greater than the known value.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the cleansing operations comprise a series of mini-washes followed by drying of residue from the mini-washes.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the first series of cleansing operations includes more cleansing operations than the second series of cleansing operations.

5. The method of claim 2 wherein the reaction assay involves potentially harmful agents and the residue from the mini-washes is discharged into a first secure storage and wherein the reaction assay involves biological or innocuous chemical agents and the residue from the mini-washes is discharged into a second secure storage.

6. An automated wash station to perform the method of claim 1, the wash station comprising a number of independently activated wash probes and drying probes adapted to be lowered into the reaction cuvette.

7. The wash station of claim 4 wherein the drying probes include a drying boot having an associated spring-biased force adapted to fully insert the boot into the reaction cuvette.

8. The wash station of claim 5 wherein the drying boot has side ridges and lateral openings on its external surfaces that act to generate a knife-like flow of drying air.

9. The wash station of claim 4 wherein wash probes and drying probes are lowered into the reaction cuvette by means of a curved vertical slide comprising a collar freely disposed inside a sleeve, the sleeve being mounted to the curved vertical slide, the curved vertical slide attached to a stationary motor operable to vertically translate the curved vertical slide along a stationary post.

10. The wash station of claim 4 wherein each washing probe and drying probe are attached to the curved vertical slide by independently operable solenoids.

11. The wash station of claim 4 wherein each drying probe drying probe further includes a magnet and the curved vertical slide includes a ferromagnetic portion with a biasing spring optionally disposed therebetween so that whenever the drying probe is not attached to the curved vertical slide, the drying probe is lowered into the cuvette with an additional spring-loaded force and, whenever the drying probe is attached to the curved vertical slide, the magnet and ferromagnetic portion automatically separate.

12. A method for cleansing a used reaction cuvette such that whenever an assay in a first group of assays has been previously performed in the cuvette, the cuvette is automatically subjected to a first series of cleansing operations and whenever an assay in a second group of assays has been previously performed in the cuvette, the cuvette is automatically subjected to a second series of cleansing operations.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the cleansing operations comprise a series of mini-washes followed by drying of residue from the mini-washes.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein the first series of cleansing operations includes more cleansing operations than the second series of cleansing operations.